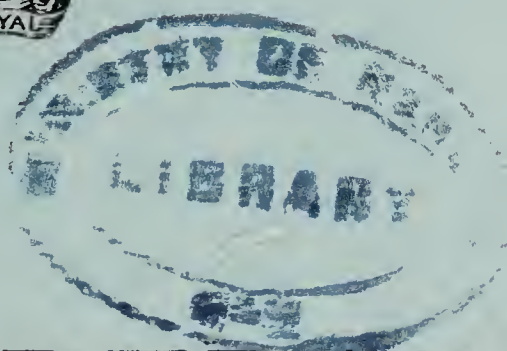


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COUNTY BOROUGH OF WIGAN.



ANNUAL REPORT

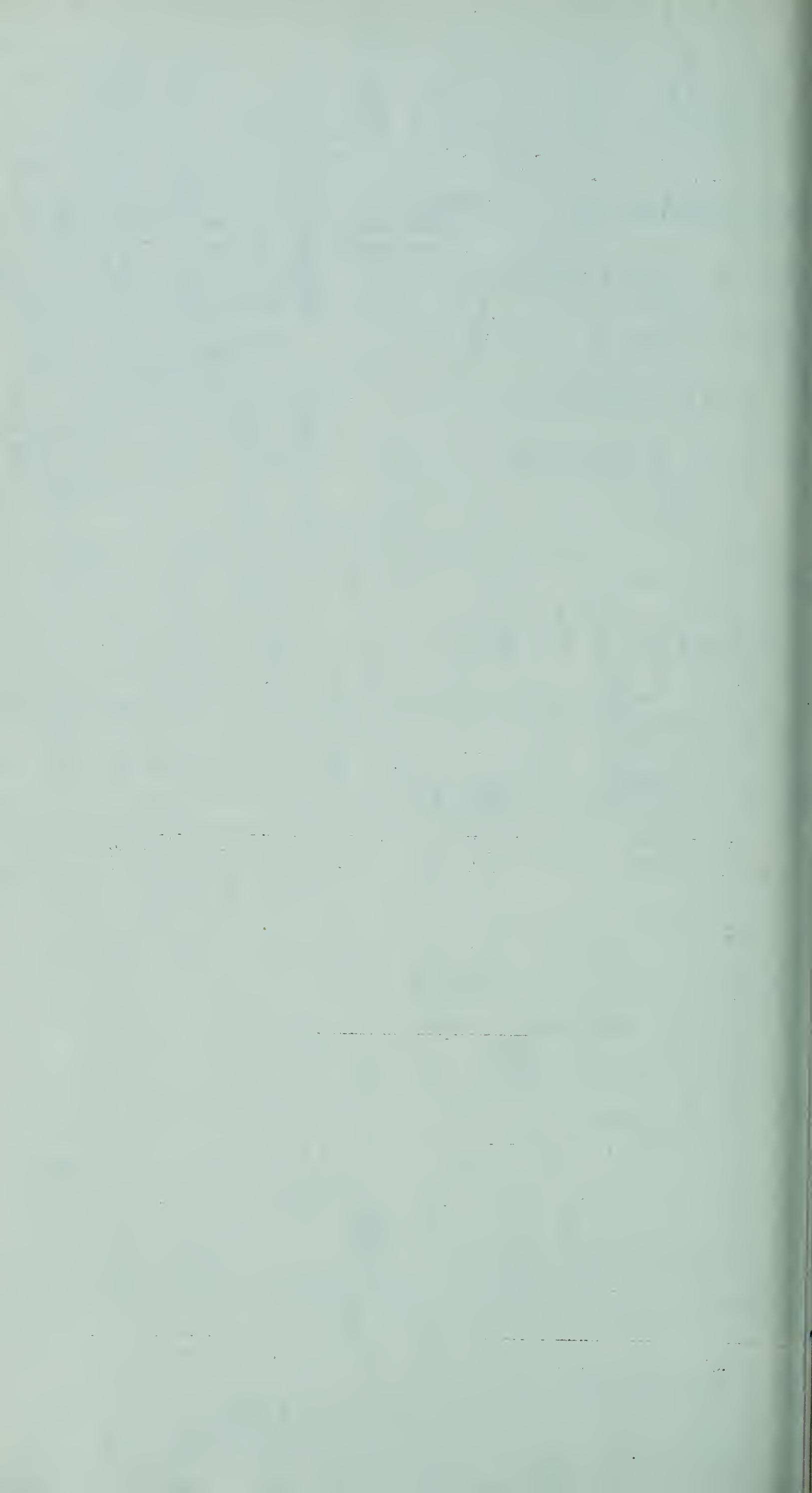
OF THE

SCHOOL MEDICAL OFFICER

FOR THE YEAR 1947.

J. S. G. BURNETT, M.D., D.P.H.,

Medical Officer of Health and School Medical Officer.



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The Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Education Committee, together with the following Members: Mrs. Ritson, Mrs. Smith, Messrs. H. Dowling, E. P. Eaborn, J. T. Farrimond, W. O. Fillingham, H. R. Hancock, J. McCurdy, M. McNicholas, J. E. Riley, F. W. Roberts, O. Somers and W. Shaw,

SCHOOL MEDICAL STAFF.

School Medical Officer :

J. S. G. BURNETT, M.D., D.P.H. (from 1st November, 1947).
 HENRY WHITEHEAD, M.D., D.P.H. (Vict.), M.B., B.S. (Lond.) (to
 31st October, 1947).

Assistant School Medical Officers :

JANE T. GILMOUR, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
 ISOBEL M. SMITH, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H. (Part time). (To 30th June,
 1947).
 ELIZABETH R. M. WILSON, M.B., Ch.B. (Part time). (From 1st July,
 1947).

Orthopaedic Surgeon :

MARGUERITE F. JOHNSTONE, M.B., Ch.B.

School Dentist :

C. F. L. PURSLOW, L.D.S., R.C.S. (Eng.).

Assistant School Dentist :

L. B. HALL, L.D.S. (Liv)..

School Nurses :

(b) M. PLUMPTON.
 (a) E. ASPINWELL.
 (a, b) A. M. KEENAN.
 (a) E. GEE.
 L. BALL.

Dental Nurse :

(a) G. REYNOLDS.

Dental Attendant :

E. CHADWICK.

Clerks :

E. STRAFFORD (to 30th April, 1947).
 K. UNSWORTH.
 M. YATES (from 1st May, 1947).

- (a) Certificate of General Training.
- (b) C.M.B. Certificate.

SCHOOL MEDICAL OFFICER'S ANNUAL REPORT, 1947.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT,

Library Street,

Wigan.

August, 1948.

*To the Chairman and Members of the Education Committee of the
County Borough of Wigan.*

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

The annual report of the School Medical Officer for the year 1947 is a record of the work carried out under the active supervision of Dr. Whitehead, who retired from the office of School Medical Officer and Medical Officer of Health in October, 1947, after 26 years of faithful service to the Corporation.

His retirement coincides with the closing of an epoch in which tremendous progress has been made in the investigation of the causation of ill health in school children and in the application of remedies to the conditions found.

In the present period of reorientation changes may obscure but will never obliterate the fine achievements that took place in the school medical service and in the health of the school child in the inter war years.

The outbreak of poliomyelitis during the summer and autumn constituted the principal feature of the year. 4 proved cases amongst school children occurred of whom 1 died.

In the last few weeks of the year discussions took place with representatives of the medical staff of the Ministry of Education and certain recommendations regarding the future of the school health service have been made the outcome of which will be dealt with in a subsequent report.

J. S. G. BURNETT,

School Medical Officer.

COUNTY BOROUGH OF WIGAN.

Number of Schools and Children.

Primary Schools.

	No.	Depart- ments.	Accommo- dation.	No. on Rolls.	Average attend- ance.
County Schools ...	4	...	6	...	1896
Voluntary Schools...	20	...	39	...	10474
	24	...	45	...	12370
				9147	8097

Secondary Modern Schools.

	No.	Depart- ments.	Accommo- dation.	No. on Rolls.	Average attend- ance.
County Schools ...	3	...	5	...	2040
Voluntary Schools .	3	...	4	...	1120
	6	...	9	...	3160
				1809	1675

Secondary Grammar Schools.

The Grammar School has 484 pupils on roll, and the High School has 461.

The number of Borough pupils during 1946-47 in the Secondary Technical School at the Wigan Mining and Technical College was 56, and 47 in the Secondary Commercial School.

There is one direct-grant secondary grammar school in the town, viz., The Notre Dame High School.

Nursery Classes.

Nursery Classes exist in connection with the Infant Departments of the following schools : Beech Hill County, St. George's C.E., Highfield C.E., St. Mary's R.C., St. Michael's C.E., Methodist, National and Blue Coat C.E., Scot Lane County, St. Thomas' C.E. and Warrington Lane County. They admit children between the ages of 3 and 5 years.

Cost.

I am indebted to the Borough Treasurer for the following :—

The rateable value of the Borough at 1st April, 1947, was £446,920.

The gross cost of Medical Inspection for the twelve months ended 31st March, 1947, was £8,751 15s. 11d., compared with £7,428 os. od. in the preceding year. The Government Grant was £5,228 11s. 2d., and income from other sources was nil, hence net cost was £3,523 4s. 9d.

The cost of the School Medical Service per child on roll was 14s. 6.19d. gross, and 5s. 10.13d. net, and the cost, expressed in terms of a penny rate, was 4.99d. gross, and 2.01d. net.

NUMBER OF INDIVIDUAL CHILDREN FOUND AT ROUTINE MEDICAL
INSPECTION TO REQUIRE TREATMENT (EXCLUDING UNCLEANLINESS
AND DENTAL DISEASES).

<i>Group.</i> (1)	<i>Number of Children.</i>	
	<i>Inspected.</i> (2)	<i>Found to require Treatment.</i> (3)
Code Groups :—		
Entrants	1461	183
Intermediates	991	128
Leavers	870	124
Total (Code Groups)	3322	435
Other Routine Inspections ...	95	14
Grand Total	3417	449

Uncleanliness.—55 children were found to be unclean, and of these 24 with verminous heads were cleansed at the Clinic.

Minor Ailments.—2,691 defects were treated at the School Clinic and 12 by children's own doctors.

Tonsils and Adenoids.—104 children were found to require treatment, and 75 required to be kept under observation. 88 received operative treatment under the Authority's scheme, and 1 by their own doctor.

Skin Diseases.—The routine inspection revealed 7 cases of scabies, 9 of impetigo. "Specials" were 3 ringworm of the body, 45 scabies, 76 impetigo, and 43 other diseases.

External Eye Disease.—69 children were found to be suffering from external eye disease, mainly conjunctivitis and blepharitis.

293 cases were found to have defective vision and squint, and there were 73 cases with other conditions.

Cases of defective vision are examined by the Assistant School Medical Officer at the Clinic, and glasses are prescribed where necessary. In all cases, glasses are supplied free.

Ear Disease and Hearing.—50 children were found to be suffering from ear trouble of various kinds. 41 had discharging ears.

Dental Defects.—11,555 persons were inspected by the Dentist. 5,896 were found to be suffering from dental defects, and were referred for treatment (a percentage of 51).

Crippling Defects.—The following crippling defects were found at medical inspection :—

Deformity, Hand	...	...	...	...	2
Injury, Coccyx	...	...	...	...	1
Claw Foot	...	...	...	...	2
Spastic Paralysis	...	...	...	...	1
Dislocated Hip	...	...	...	...	1
Pigeon Chest	...	...	...	...	2
Osteomyelitis	...	...	...	...	1
Infantile Paralysis	...	...	...	...	2
Infantile Hemiplegia	...	...	...	...	1
Torticollis	...	...	...	...	1
Asymmetry Chest	...	...	...	...	2
Poor Posture	...	...	...	...	3
Knock Knee	...	...	...	...	11
Overlapping Toes	...	...	...	...	1
Pes Planus	...	...	...	...	1
Inversion of Feet	...	...	...	...	3
Depressed Sternum	...	...	...	...	1

Infectious Diseases.

The following table shows the number of cases of Infectious Diseases occurring amongst school children, notified or reported in the borough :—

TABLE SHOWING NUMBER OF NOTIFICATIONS BY DOCTORS AND HEAD TEACHERS OF CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES IN CHILDREN BETWEEN THE AGES OF 5 TO 14.

	1946.	1947.
Scarlet Fever	57	381
Diphtheria	29	19
Tuberculosis of Respiratory Tract	2	2
Other Tubercular Diseases	10	9
Pneumonia	10	5
Chicken Pox	72	53
Whooping Cough	32	4
Measles	54	174
Mumps	—	1
Erysipelas	—	—
Cerebro Spinal Meningitis	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	4

Diphtheria in the Schools.

During the year 1947 the incidence of diphtheria in Wigan was much below the average for the Borough during the last 10 years.

The average number of notifications of diphtheria per annum during the ten years 1938 to 1947 for all ages was 155.

In 1947, 27 cases were notified, of which 19 were school children. This is a decrease on the previous year.

Protective inoculation against diphtheria is offered free, and the written consent of the parents is obtained before any child is immunised.

Consent forms have been issued to each child to take home to his parents for signature on several occasions, and the Head Teachers have been asked to co-operate in advising parents to have their children inoculated. Other forms of propaganda have been carried out.

The number of acceptances for school children during the year 1947 was	786
--	-----

No. of children at present on school registers who have received complete immunisation ...	7804
---	------

All cases of Diphtheria were promptly removed to hospital, and the usual disinfection carried out at the home. Investigations by Medical Officers and Nurses were made at the schools involved, and a search for carriers or cases was made in various classes. Many nose and throat swabs were taken and some positive cases found. Several children attending school clinics were found to be positive and removed to hospital.

The suggested preventive measures against diphtheria in schools have been fully dealt with in previous reports.

ADDITIONAL PREVENTIVE MEASURES.

Recommendations were made through the Education Department to the Head Teachers of Schools, as follows:—

(1) During epidemic periods all teachers and senior children to gargle every morning from **own** drinking vessel. There must be no interchange of such vessels. Compound Glycerine of Thymol B.P.C., **diluted**, 1 part of this to 4 parts of water.

(2) Each child should have a separate drinking vessel, kept separately and labelled, otherwise automatic fountains should be installed.

(3) Each child should have a separate towel, labelled and kept separately. A child must not use another's towel. There must be no towel for general use.

(4) Pencils, pens, chalks, paint brushes or other writing material, or anything which might carry germs from one to the other, to be kept separately, and each child to have his or her own, and not borrow.

(5) Teachers in the schools most affected could help to get knowledge of suspicious cases early if they would kindly look at the throats of the children in the junior schools once a week, using a wooden spatula for each child. Spatulas to be used once only and then destroyed. If any white deposit is seen on the throat, the child should be sent to the Clinic for examination.

As chicken pox, mumps, influenza, etc., are not compulsorily notifiable, the total number of cases is not known. The sources of our information are teachers, school attendance officers, school nurses, and occasionally general practitioners and parents.

Cases of small pox, scarlet fever, diphtheria, and enteric fever are notified by general practitioners in the usual way, and are visited by the Sanitary Inspectors of the Health Department. The majority of cases are sent into hospital, and the houses thoroughly disinfected.

In 1931 chicken-pox ceased to be notifiable, but every case coming to our notice in other ways is visited as before.

It is compulsory to notify cases of measles and whooping cough. All cases are visited by the School Nurses.

Cases of whooping cough, mumps, and influenza are visited by the School Nurses until they are fit for school. A printed table has been prepared by the School Medical Officer of minimum periods of exclusion for various diseases, and copies supplied to the Health Department, Education Committee, Head Teachers, and Attendance Officers. The recommendations of the minimum periods of exclusion of the various diseases are given in the tables set out in pages 11, 12 and 13.

Exclusion certificates are issued for definite periods or until the child is fit, when a re-admission certificate is given.

No child who has been suffering from an infectious disease must be re-admitted to school before a re-admission form or a medical certificate of fitness from a private practitioner has been received.

There is complete co-ordination between the School Medical Service and the Health Department in the control of infectious diseases, and the Medical Officer of Health informs the Head Teacher of all cases notified by medical practitioners, and exclusion certificates are sent to them,

Minimum Periods of Exclusion from School of Persons Suffering from Infectious Diseases and of Persons who have been in Contact with such Cases.

<i>Disease.</i>	<i>Persons suffering from Infectious Disease.</i>	<i>Contacts, i.e., the other members of the family or household living together as a family, that is, in one tenement.</i>
SCARLET FEVER ...	7 days after discharge from hospital or from home isolation (unless "cold in the head," discharge from the nose or ear, sore throat, or "septic spots" be present).	7 days after the removal of the patient to hospital or the beginning of his isolation at home.
DIPHTHERIA ...	Until pronounced by a medical practitioner to be free from infection.	7 days after the removal of the patient to hospital, or the beginning of his isolation at home. If there be any suspicious signs the child should be excluded further until pronounced by a medical practitioner to be free from infection.
MEASLES ...	14 days after the appearance of the rash if the child appears well.	Infants who have not had the disease should be excluded for 14 days from the date of appearance of the rash in the last case in the house. Other contacts can attend school. Any contact suffering from a cough, cold, chill or red eyes should be immediately excluded.

<i>Disease.</i>	<i>Persons suffering from Infectious Disease.</i>	<i>Contacts, i.e., the other members of the family or household living together as a family, that is, in one tenement.</i>
GERMAN MEASLES ...	7 days from the appearance of the rash.	None
WHOOPING COUGH ...	28 days from the beginning of the characteristic cough.	Infants who have not had the disease should be excluded for 21 days from the date of onset of the disease in the last case in the house.
MUMPS	14 days from the onset of the disease or 7 days from the subsidence of all swelling.	None.
CHICKEN POX ...	14 days from the date of appearance of the rash.	None.
*SMALL-POX	Until the patient is pronounced by a medical practitioner to be free from infection.	21 days unless recently successfully vaccinated, when exclusion is unnecessary.
TYPHOID OR ENTERIC FEVER	One month after discharge from hospital.	Contacts need not be excluded.
INFLUENZA	Period indefinite.	Unnecessary except in special cases.
RINGWORM	When certified by Assistant School Medical Officer or Medical Attendant as free from infection.	Contacts need not be excluded.

<i>Disease.</i>	<i>Persons suffering from Infectious Disease.</i>	<i>Contacts, i.e., the other members of the family or household living together as a family, that is, in one tenement.</i>
IMPETIGO (Septic Sores)	When certified by Assistant School Medical Officer or Medical Attendant as free from infection.	Contacts need not be excluded.
SCABIES	When certified by Assistant School Medical Officer or Medical Attendant as free from infection.	Contacts need not be excluded.

* The incubation period of major smallpox is commonly 12 days, but that of minor smallpox is more variable and the wide limits given apply to this variety of the disease.

Work of School Nurses.

	1946.	1947.
No. of visits paid to homes for following up of cases	1,908	1,865
„ visits paid to schools in connection with general cleanliness	73	75
„ children inspected for general cleanliness	9,751	9,360
„ visits paid to schools for re-inspection for general cleanliness	533	599
„ children re-inspected for general cleanliness	33,532	3,951
„ visits to schools for Infectious Diseases..	7	37
„ children inspected for Infectious Diseases	189	910
„ visits paid to schools for other purposes	60	43
„ visits paid to homes for Infectious Diseases	150	194
„ visits paid to schools for Medical Inspection... ..	179	187
„ visits to schools for Dental Inspection...	57	69
„ visits to homes for Dental Treatment ...	294	338

Cleanliness.

SCHEME FOR DEALING WITH VERMINOUS CHILDREN.

The following scheme has been in operation during the whole year, and it has entailed a great amount of work for the School Nurses, which was very trying and at times unpleasant :—

(1) Complete survey by a School Nurse of each school as soon as possible after term begins.

(2) Children found to be harbouring live vermin should be excluded from school and attend the Clinic every day until quite free.

They can then be re-admitted and directions given to the parents to keep them free from nits and live vermin.

(3) In the case of children with nits only, notices to parents should be sent in the usual way with instructions in method of getting rid of nits.

These children should be seen by Nurses at intervals of three or four days until quite free. Notices to parents should be repeated in cases where nits are still present.

No. Examined, First Inspection	...	...	...	9,360
Pediculosis of Head at First Inspection	...	...	...	741
Percentage	...	...	...	7.91
Pediculosis of Head at Final Inspection	...	...	...	425
Percentage	...	...	...	4.54

The average number of visits paid to the schools by the Nurses for cleanliness inspections was 15.

Great efforts have been made to apply the scheme thoroughly, and the results have been very gratifying.

The total number of first examinations of children was 9,360, and of these 741 had pediculosis of the head (i.e., lice or nits present).

At the final inspection the number of children with pediculosis was 425.

At the first examination the percentage of verminous children was 7.91, and at the final inspection the percentage had been reduced to 4.54.

We ask for greater understanding and co-operation of the parents. Many teachers are keenly interested in this important work, and the help they give to the nurses is very valuable.

Many children, after being freed from nits and lice at the Clinic, or by carrying out the Medical Officer's advice, became re-infested in their homes. It is therefore very important that parents and adults should see that their own heads are free from nits and lice.

The Education Authority is determined to persevere with this campaign of cleanliness amongst the school children and there should be no reason to prevent the achievement of 100 per cent. free from vermin; with the active co-operation of the parents this could be done.

Medical Inspection Returns.

TABLE IV.

RETURN OF DEFECTS TREATED DURING THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1946.

TREATMENT TABLE.

GROUP I.—**Minor Ailments** (EXCLUDING UNCLEANLINESS, FOR WHICH SEE GROUP V.).

<i>Disease or Defect.</i> (1)	<i>Number of Defects treated, or under treatment during the year.</i>		
	<i>Under the Authority's Scheme.</i> (2)	<i>Otherwise.</i> (3)	<i>Total.</i> (4)
<i>Skin—</i>			
Ringworm : Scalp	4	—	4
Ringworm : Body	3	—	3
Scabies	36	—	36
Impetigo	66	—	66
Other Skin Disease... ..	43	1	44
<i>Minor Eye Defects</i> (External and other, but excluding cases falling in Group II.)	136	—	136
<i>Minor Ear Defects</i>	91	—	91
<i>Miscellaneous</i> (e.g., Minor injuries, bruises, sores, chilblains, etc.).	1550	3	1553
<i>Total</i>	1929	4	1933

Medical Treatment.

Table IV (pages 15, 17, 18, 19, and 20) gives a summary of defects treated and the means by which the treatment was obtained.

Tuberculosis.

The number of cases referred by the School Medical Officer to the Dispensary during 1947 was 15.

Found not Tuberculous	...	...	...	...	...	10
Found suffering from Respiratory Tuberculosis A	...					—
Found suffering from Non-Respiratory Tuberculosis A...						3
Still under observation at end of year	...	...				2
						—
						15
						—

5 were still attending the Dispensary at the end of the year.

Of the three children found to be tuberculous, one received treatment in Leasowe Hospital, one in Wigan Infirmary, and one received extra nourishment. At the end of the year two had improved and were fit for school. One remained in Leasowe Hospital.

Of the ten children found not tuberculous :—

4 were diagnosed as suffering from Bronchitis.

2 were diagnosed as suffering from Debility.

1 was diagnosed as suffering from Bronchiectasis.

The total number of examinations of school children during the year was 529. There were 101 new cases examined. On the attendance register there were 202 cases (including new cases).

	<i>New Cases.</i>	<i>Old Cases.</i>	<i>Inward Transfers.</i>
Not Tuberculous	88	—	—
Respiratory Tuberculosis A...	2	6	—
Non-Respiratory Tuberculosis A	7	93	2
Diagnosis not complete	4	—	—

Of the 110 tuberculous children, 1 received sunlight treatment, 4 received sanatorium treatment, twelve received treatment in Leasowe Hospital, 8 received treatment at the Royal Albert Edward Infirmary, and 12 received extra nourishment.

There are 110 children still on the Register. (Diagnosis confirmed).

97 have improved and 1 has not improved. 97 are fit for school and 1 is not fit for school.

12 children were in various institutions at the end of the year.

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION. TABLE IV.

GROUP II.—**Defective Vision and Squint** (EXCLUDING MINOR EYE DEFECTS, TREATED AS MINOR AILMENTS—GROUP I.).

<i>Defect or Disease.</i> (1)	<i>No. of Defects dealt with.</i>		
	<i>Under the Authority's Scheme.</i> (2)	<i>Otherwise.</i> (3)	<i>Total.</i> (4)
Errors of Refraction (including Squint)	620	—	620
Other Defect or Disease of the Eyes (excluding those recorded in Group I.) ...	—	—	—
Total	620	—	620

Total number of children for whom spectacles were prescribed :—

(a) Under the Authority's Scheme	468
(b) Otherwise	2

Total number of children who obtained or received spectacles :—

(a) Under the Authority's Scheme	453
(b) Otherwise	2

Treatment of Visual Defects.

The procedure has been fully described in previous reports. (See pages 31 and 32 of the report of 1932).

DEFECTIVE VISION.

	1947.
No. of refractions carried out at the Clinic	620
„ children for whom glasses were prescribed ...	468
„ children for whom glasses were not prescribed	117
„ children for whom new glasses were not considered necessary	15
Uncompleted cases	16
No. referred to Infirmary	4

ANALYSIS OF CASES IN WHICH GLASSES WERE PRESCRIBED.

Simple Hypermetropia	105
Simple Myopia	31
Hypermetropic Astigmatism	240
Myopic Astigmatism	68
Mixed Astigmatism	24

It will be seen from Table IV., page 17, that in 468 cases glasses were prescribed and 453 obtained or received glasses under the Authority's Scheme.

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION. TABLE IV.

GROUP III.—Treatment of Defects of Nose and Throat.

<i>Number of Defects.</i>				
<i>Received Operative Treatment.</i>			<i>Received Other Forms of Treatment.</i>	<i>Total Number Treated.</i>
<i>Under the Authority's Scheme, in Clinic or Hospital.</i> (1)	<i>By Private Practitioner or Hospital apart from the Authority's Scheme.</i> (2)	<i>Total.</i> (3)		
88	1	89	—	89

Treatment of Tonsils and Adenoids.

Children suffering from the effects of enlarged tonsils and adenoids receive treatment at the Wigan Infirmary.

The children attend at a time arranged, and after the operation they are taken home by ambulance accompanied by a School Nurse.

Under this scheme, 88 children received treatment during the year 1947.

Treatment of Dental Defects.

Of the 5,896 children referred for treatment in 1947 4,039 were treated, i.e., 68.5 per cent., compared with 91.1 per cent. in the previous year.

	<i>No. of Half-days devoted to treatment.</i>	<i>No. treated.</i>	<i>Referred for treatment.</i>
1947. January to December...	747	4039	5896

The following tables give particulars of the work done during the past year :—

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION. TABLE IV.

GROUP IV.—Dental Defects.

(1) Number of children who were :—

(a) Inspected by the Dentist :

Routine Age Groups	...	...	...	...	11385
Specials	...	...	...	...	170
Grand Total	...	...	...	...	11,555

(b) Found to require treatment ... 5,896

(c) Actually treated ... 4,039

(2) Half-days devoted to :—

Inspection	...	...	...	...	69
Treatment	...	...	...	...	747
Total	...	...	...	...	816

(3) Attendances made by children for treatment ... 6,121

(4) Fillings :—

Permanent teeth	...	...	...	...	3,328
Temporary teeth	...	...	...	...	221
Total	...	...	...	...	3,549

(5) Extractions :—

Permanent teeth	...	...	...	...	...	385
Temporary teeth	...	...	...	...	...	3,825
						<hr/>
Total	...	...	...	...	...	4,210
						<hr/>

(6) Administrations of general anaesthetics for extractions Nil.

(7) Other operations :—

Permanent teeth	...	...	...	...	...	496
Temporary teeth	...	...	...	...	...	195
						<hr/>
Total	...	...	...	...	...	691
						<hr/>

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION. TABLE IV.

GROUP V.—Uncleanliness and Verminous Conditions.

- (i) Average number of visits per school made during the year by the School Nurses 15
- (ii) Total number of examinations of children in the Schools by School Nurses 48,861
- (iii) Number of individual children found unclean at first inspection 741
- (iv) Number of individual children found unclean at final inspection 425
- (v) Number of children cleansed under arrangements made by the Local Education Authority 24
- (vi) Number of cases in which legal proceedings were taken :—
- (a) Under the Education Act, 1921 Nil.
- (b) Under School Attendance Byelaws Nil.

Artificial Sunlight Treatment.

Artificial sunlight therapy is provided at Wigan Infirmary and during the year 1947 30 children were referred there for this form of treatment.

The following table summarises the conditions for which treatment was started and the results of such treatment.

RESULTS OF SUNLIGHT TREATMENT OF SCHOOL CHILDREN DURING 1947.

<i>No. of Cases and Condition.</i>	<i>No. of Attendances during year 1947.</i>	<i>Results of Treatment.</i>
21 Debility	361	1 discharged: not suitable for treatment. 3 discharged: improved. 2 discharged: well. 2 discharged: satisfactory. 6 improving. 4 stationary. 3 ceased to attend.
2 Anæmia	70	1 discharged: no change. 1 to continue.
1 Adenitis	34	1 ceased to attend.
1 Rheumatism	30	1 improving.
1 Bronchitis... ..	19	1 improving.
2 Non-tuberculous cervical adenitis ...	52	1 to continue. 1 ceased to attend.
1 Sinusitis	29	1 ceased to attend.
1 Tuberculous cervical adenitis	58	1 improved: Discharged.

Physical Training.

During the year progress in physical training in all the schools of the Borough and in the Evening Institutes has been maintained.

Unfortunately, the arrangements for organised swimming at the Public Baths had to be curtailed as a result of the outbreak of Infantile Paralysis. The result was that the facilities available were not utilised to their fullest capacity, nor was it possible this year to hold swimming sports as in previous years.

In general, however, the standard of physical training in all the schools of the Borough has reached a high level. The Borough, in conjunction with the County Authority, has recently made the appointment of a full-time Physical Training Organiser, and it is hoped, during the forthcoming year, that the benefits of this appointment will be clearly observed in the schools.

Swimming Instruction.

The number of children who attended the Baths for swimming instruction during the year 1947 was 351 boys and 269 girls weekly.

The boys made 12,644 attendances and the girls 9,696, a total of 23,340.

The number of school children who attended the Baths after school hours (i.e., after 4-0 p.m.) was :—

<i>Boys.</i>		<i>Girls.</i>		<i>Total.</i>
1,543	...	13,707	...	15,250

There has been a decrease in attendances due to the fact that during the summer of 1947 juvenile bathers, up to the age of 14 years, were excluded from the Baths by the Medical Officer of Health through the epidemic of infantile paralysis.

Due to the curtailment of bathing for juveniles, no examinations for certificates were held.

Provision of Milk and Meals.

The School Meals and Milk Scheme has continued to operate satisfactorily during 1947, and the figures show a considerable increase in the number of paid meals. Consequently, all kitchens are working considerably over capacity and the number of paid meals cannot increase. Priority, however, is given to children whose parents are working.

Meals continue to be provided, free of charge, to children whose parents' income falls below the prescribed scale and to children recommended by the Medical Officer, whose family circumstances warrant such aid.

As from the 1st of December, for a trial period of six months, Saturday milk and meals and holiday milk were discontinued,

SUMMARY OF MILK AND MEALS SERVED.

Free Meals.		Paid Meals.		$\frac{1}{3}$ -pint bottles of Free Milk.	
1946.	1947.	1946.	1947.	1946.	1947.
426,560	335,102	616,704	820,279	1,309,917	2,112,209

CLASSIFICATION OF THE GENERAL CONDITION OF PUPILS INSPECTED
DURING THE YEAR IN THE AGE GROUPS.

Age Groups.	No. of Pupils In- spected	A (Good)		B (Fair)		C (Poor)	
		No.	% of col. 2.	No.	% of col. 2.	No.	% of col. 2.
Entrants	1461	8	0.55	1445	98.90	8	0.55
Second Age Group.	991	12	1.21	966	97.48	13	1.31
Third Age Group...	870	13	1.49	841	96.67	16	1.84
Other Periodic In- spections... ..	95	2	2.11	88	92.63	5	5.26
Total	3417	35	1.02	3340	97.75	42	1.23

Co-operation of Parents.

The number of parents present at Medical Inspection varies considerably in the different schools. The total number of parents present was 1,811, and the total number of children medically inspected was 3,417. The average attendance of parents of elementary school children was 53 per cent., a slight increase on the figure for the previous year.

Co-operation of Teachers.

The majority of the teachers in the schools of Wigan help the Assistant Medical Officers all they can to facilitate the work of Medical Inspection. They provide them with the best accommodation possible, report any abnormality they have noticed in the children, and submit special cases for inspection. As regards following up, they inform the doctors from time to time whether treatment which is recommended has been carried out, and in those cases for treatment at the Clinic, arrange for the children to attend there at times arranged. **There is room for improvement and promptness in the return of special forms by teachers giving information of children suffering from infectious diseases.** Prompt and complete returns are very valuable to the School Medical Officer in helping to control or even to prevent epidemics. The Teachers see that such cases are kept away from the School for the minimum period prescribed and until a re-admission form is received, and also that contacts are excluded as recommended.

Head teachers and teachers generally could help a great deal in getting more consents for recommended dental treatment, and in insisting that all children with visual defects for whom glasses have been prescribed should obtain and wear them without delay.

Co-operation of Voluntary Bodies.

During the year the help of the N.S.P.C.C. Inspector has been given in 12 cases, involving the welfare of 42 children. In all cases the results were satisfactory. The Inspector made 45 visits of supervision in connection with the above cases.

Treatment of Crippling Defects.

A definite approved scheme for orthopædic treatment was commenced on December 5th, 1927. By arrangement with the Lancashire County Council a special nurse attends every week on Monday morning at the Central Clinic, and an orthopædic surgeon attends twice a month.

Cases for hospital treatment are sent to Biddulph Hospital, Staffs., a very fine, up-to-date institution, under the control of the Lancashire County Council.

Other cases not requiring operation are treated in the Clinic by various methods.

ORTHOPÆDIC CLINIC.—1st January, 1947, to 31st December, 1947.

	<i>Wigan.</i>	<i>Hindley</i>	<i>Ince.</i>	<i>Standish</i>	<i>Total.</i>
No. of children of school age attending	141	23	20	15	199
No. of attendances of children of school age...	575	112	81	61	829
No. of cases of children of school age referred for treatment to Biddulph Hospital, Staffordshire (in-patients)	6	1	—	—	7

6 Wigan cases were treated during the year at Biddulph Hospital, the number of patient days being 528.

Speech Clinic. Annual Report, 1948.

At the end of December, 1946, 110 cases were in attendance at the Clinic. Between January and December, 1947, another 110 children attended the Speech Clinic for the first time. Defects in these cases were as follows:—

81 Dyslalia :

64 lalling, etc.

11 lateral sigmatism.

4 idioglossia.

1 hysterical dyslalia.

1 M.D. dyslalia.

15 Stammer.

5 Dysphonia.

4 Delay.

3 Rhinolalia.

2 Rhinolalia aperta.

During the year 64 cases were transferred to the supervision list, i.e., to fortnightly or monthly attendance instead of regular weekly appointments, due in the majority of cases to speech having reached a level where the child can continue improvement by regular home practice. Of this number 27 have subsequently been discharged.

The total number of cases discharged during the year was 64. Reasons for discharge were as follows :—

- 34 Speech satisfactory.
- 15 Improved to limit of child's mental and physical capacity.
- 6 Improved. Children now left school.
- 3 Slightly improved. Children now left school.
- 3 Transferred to School for the Deaf, Special School and Occupation Centre respectively. (Improvement noted in two cases).
- 2 Left district. (One slightly improved).
- 1 Deceased.

In January, 1947, of four cases referred by the County Authority, two were in attendance at the Clinic, and two more on the waiting list. During the ensuing months four more County cases were referred, and two of these children have now commenced treatment. Priority was given to both these children, due in one case to extreme urgency, and in the other to the fact that the child had previously been on the waiting list for some time, as previous to September, 1946, he attended a school in Wigan.

The ex-serviceman referred for treatment by the Ministry of Pensions in September, 1946, completed his course of treatment in April, 1947. Improvement was noted.

During school visits, it was found that there are at present 465 speech defectives at Primary Schools, and 95 at Secondary and Grammar Schools within the area, making a total of 560 cases, of whom approximately 27 per cent. attend for treatment. This latter number includes the majority of serious cases, and it is to be noted that many of the children on the waiting list suffer from very minor defects.

In 1946, registered cases numbered 534, and a slight increase on this total is observed this year. This is due to the fact that the number of new cases, of whom the majority are at Nursery or Infant Departments, exceeds the number of cases discharged during 1946.

One session each week is devoted to intelligence and hearing tests, and another is occupied by home and school visiting.

As from 12th November, 1947, the speech therapy service has operated from The Elms, Wigan Lane, and several sessions are held each week at Whelley and Gidlow School Clinics and Pemberton Clinic, Billinge Road. Distribution of cases is approximately as follows :—

The Elms, Wigan Lane	...	...	30%
Gidlow School Clinic	...	...	17%
Whelley School Clinic	...	...	13%
Pemberton Clinic	...	...	40%

Children attend at the various centres proper to the location of the school which they attend. In a few cases alteration is made when justified by home circumstances.

The present accommodation is proving much more suitable than that provided at Hope School, where lack of natural lighting proved a great drawback.

Blind, Deaf, Physically and Mentally Handicapped Children.

During the year 1947 the following children were being educated in the following Institutions :—

BLIND :

Henshaw's Institute for the Blind	2
--	---

DEAF :

St. John's Institution for the Deaf and Dumb, Boston Spa	8
Royal Cross School for the Deaf, Preston	1

PHYSICALLY HANCIDAPPED :

Cripples Home and Industrial School for Girls, Hallwick, Winchmore Hill, London, 21	2
St. Loyes Training College, Exeter	2
Children's Convalescent Home, West Kirby	11
St. Joseph's Heart Hospital School	1
St. Patrick's Open Air School, Hayling Island	2
St. Dominics, Hambledon, Surrey	1
St. Vincent's Orthopædic Hospital School, Pinner, Middlesex	1
Stanmore Cripples Training College	1

EPILEPTIC :

St. Elizabeth's School and Home for Epileptics, Much Hadham, Hertfordshire	1
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EDUCATIONALLY SUBNORMAL :

Pontville R.C. Special School... ..	4
Greenwood School, Halstead, Essex	1
Monyhill Colony, Birmingham	1
Besford Court Special School, Worcester	1
Odsal House, Bradford	2
Littleton House, Girton, Cambridge	1

Dull and Backward Children.

A scheme providing for the education of dull or retarded children ensures that suitable provision for these children is made in the ordinary schools of the Borough. Children in need of exceptional treatment are referred to the Medical Officer for advice as to any special provision necessary for their educational interests.

Employment of Children and Young Persons.

During the year 20 applications from children for employment were examined by the Assistant School Medical Officer and licences to all the applicants were subsequently granted.

Juvenile Courts.

Special medical examination of 14 children, who had to appear before the Juvenile Court, was arranged during the year.

In addition 4 difficult cases have been referred to the Child Guidance Clinic, Manchester, for detailed psychological examination.

Medical Inspection Returns.

During the year 1947, 218 Scholarship children were examined.

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION.

TABLE I.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS.

NUMBER OF CHILDREN INSPECTED 1ST JANUARY, 1947, TO
31ST DECEMBER, 1947.

A.—ROUTINE MEDICAL INSPECTIONS.

Number of Code Group Inspections:—

Entrants	...	...	...	...	...	...	1461
Intermediates	...	...	...	...	...	...	991
Leavers	...	...	...	...	...	...	870
Total	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,322

Number of other Routine Inspections 95

B.—OTHER INSPECTIONS.

Number of Special Inspections	...	...	...	...	91
Number of Re-inspections	...	...	...	...	4001
Total	...	...	...	...	4,092

Central Clinic.

Table A gives an analysis of the work done in the Clinic :—

CLASSIFICATION OF CONSULTATIONS AND TREATMENT AT
SCHOOL CLINIC, 1947.

	<i>Inspection. at Clinic.</i>	<i>Referred to Infirmary. or own Doctor.</i>	<i>Total Number of Attend- ances at Clinic.</i>
Malnutrition	—	—	—
Uncleanliness	14	—	23
Ringworm : Scalp	4	—	20
Body	2	—	10
Scabies	32	—	158
Impetigo	42	—	463
Other Skin Diseases	43	3	182
Blepharitis	14	—	200
Conjunctivitis	38	1	366
Corneal Ulcer	2	—	31
Defective Vision	52	7	77
Squint	6	2	9
Other Eye Conditions	60	2	287
Defective Hearing	8	2	10
Otitis Media	36	2	1746
Other Ear Diseases	35	—	103
Enlarged Tonsils	2	—	2
Adenoids	11	—	11
Enlarged Tonsils and Adenoids...	30	2	34
Other Nose and Throat Con- ditions... ..	202	11	344
Enlarged Cervical Glands	8	—	12
Defective Speech	1	—	1
Infection : Diseases	23	—	29
Heart : Organic Diseases	—	—	—
Functional Diseases	—	—	—
Anæmia	—	1	—
Bronchitis	23	1	192
Other Non-Tuberculous Diseases.	2	—	6
Pulmonary : Definite	—	—	—
Suspected	—	—	—
Tuberculosis : Glands	1	—	1
Spine	—	—	—
Hip	—	—	—
Other Tuberculous Diseases	—	—	—
Carried forward	691	34	4317

CENTRAL CLINIC (Continued).

	<i>Inspection at Clinic.</i>	<i>Referred to Infirmary or own Doctor.</i>	<i>Total Number of Attend- ances at Clinic.</i>
Brought forward	691	34	4317
Tuberculosis : Skin	—	—	—
Other Bones and Joints	—	1	—
Epilepsy	—	4	—
Chorea	2	4	7
Other Conditions : Nervous System	—	—	—
Rickets	—	—	—
Other Forms : Deformities	—	—	—
Injuries to Bones and Joints	85	132	367
Miscellaneous	1442	20	6998
Total	2220	195	11689

Pemberton Clinic.

Table B gives an analysis of the work done in the Clinic :—

CLASSIFICATION OF CONSULTATIONS AND TREATMENT AT
SCHOOL CLINIC, 1947.

	<i>Inspection at Clinic.</i>	<i>Referred to Infirmary or own Doctor.</i>	<i>Total Number of Attend- ances at Clinic.</i>
Malnutrition	—	—	—
Uncleanliness	10	—	28
Ringworm : Scalp	—	—	—
Body	1	—	2
Scabies	4	—	34
Impetigo	24	—	101
Other Skin Diseases	3	1	4
Blepharitis	3	—	23
Conjunctivitis	6	—	25
Corneal Opacities	—	—	—
Defective Vision	8	—	8
Squint	—	—	—
Carried forward	59	1	225

PEMBERTON CLINIC (Continued).

	<i>Inspection at Clinic.</i>	<i>Referred to Infirmary or own Doctor.</i>	<i>Total Number of Attend- ances at Clinic.</i>
Brought forward	59	I	225
Other Eye Conditions	13	I	47
Defective Hearing	3	I	3
Otitis Media	5	—	124
Other Ear Diseases	4	—	16
Enlarged Tonsils	—	—	—
Enlarged Adenoids	3	—	3
Enlarged Tonsils and Adenoids...	12	—	15
Other Nose and Throat Con- ditions... ..	11	I	24
Enlarged Cervical Glands	—	—	—
Defective Speech	—	—	—
Infection : Diseases	2	—	2
Heart : Organic Disease	—	—	—
Functional Disease	—	—	—
Anæmia	—	—	—
Bronchitis	2	—	3
Other Non-Tuberculous Diseases	—	—	—
Pulmonary : Definite	—	—	—
Suspected	—	—	—
Glands... ..	—	—	—
Other Tuberculous Diseases	—	—	—
Tuberculosis : Skin	—	—	—
Other Bones and Joints.	—	—	—
Epilepsy	—	—	—
Chorea	—	—	—
Other Conditions : Nervous System	—	—	—
Rickets	—	—	—
Other Forms : Deformities	—	—	—
Other Defects and Diseases	3	3	11
Miscellaneous	308	2	1084
Injuries to Bones... ..	4	—	14
Total	429	9	1571

